

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Douglas Meléndez
Attorney General
Republic of El Salvador

The Honorable Thelma Aldana
Attorney General
Republic of Guatemala

The Honorable Oscar Fernando Chinchilla
Attorney General
Republic of Honduras

December 19, 2016

Dear Attorneys General Melendez, Aldana and Chinchilla:

As strong advocates of the Northern Triangle's Alliance for Prosperity Plan, we write to express our continued support for your excellent work fighting corruption and organized crime in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Please count on us to push for continued assistance to your offices in the coming years, particularly as you fight corruption, promote transparency, and end impunity in your countries.


We believe it is imperative that your political leaders allow you to carry out your work free from any interference. Recent efforts in the region intended to impeach or remove Attorneys General – or shorten their terms – send a troubling message regarding legislative and executive branch support for the impartiality of your offices. While we recognize there are constitutional provisions allowing for the possible removal of Attorneys General when justified, our Congress is skeptical of recent maneuvers to remove Attorneys General who are clearly committed to fighting corruption and organized crime. In addition, we think it is crucial that your successors be selected through fair and transparent processes that emphasize professionalism, impartiality and honesty above all else.

Finally, given the dangerous nature of your work, we believe it is essential that you and the prosecutors in your offices have access to the best possible personal security protection. We look forward to working with you to ensure that your security needs are fully met.

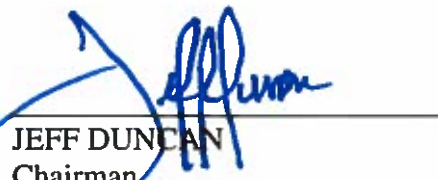
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We very much appreciate your outstanding efforts to curb impunity in the Northern Triangle. Holding individuals who commit crimes responsible for their actions is fundamental as we all work together to improve citizen security in Central America. We look forward to our continued, joint efforts.


Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs


ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Chairman
Subcommittee on Middle East and North
Africa


JEFF DUNCAN
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere


ALBIO SIRES
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere


DAVID G. VALADAO
Co-Chair
Central America Caucus


NORMA J. TORRES
Co-Chair
Central America Caucus


CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress


DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

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JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress


TED S. YOHIO
Member of Congress


TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress